

DECREASES IN DEATHS ABOUT GERMAN ARMY'S SITUATION FILTERS INTO FATHERLAND

PEOPLE LEARN FACTS... Gaudic in Comment... Wolf Bureau Attacked for Falsehoods

By GEORGE RENWICK... Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger

Amsterdam, Sept. 6.—It is all beginning to tell at last, after many desperate efforts to hide the truth regarding the Fatherland's general situation.

The Kaiser, in his latest utterance, speaks not of victory by the sword and the annihilation of the enemy, but in a message, which, according to the Lokal Anzeiger, his Majesty has sent to the assembly of the Fatherland's fight for its future, and to the German people's determination to preserve their land and honor by successful defense.

Then the official Reichsanzeiger states that his Majesty has been pleased to confer the Order of the Red Eagle of the First Class upon Herr von Kuehlmann.

The Crown Prince, as Vorwaerts rightly insists, has out-Kuehlmanned the late Minister for Foreign Affairs, and finally, the Cologne Gazette admits the serious economic situation of Germany, and violently attacks the Wolf Bureau for its falsehoods.

"Democracy is the necessity of our life," cries Vorwaerts in a great headline across its front page, and it then deals with the Crown Prince in a highly interesting article. Why, it asks, did Von Kuehlmann resign? And it sets out to parallel the statement of the former Foreign Minister in a purely military decision, and utterances by the Crown Prince in the interview already reported.

Von Kuehlmann's word, it declares, "was a storm of anger from the Pan-Germans, and yet it must be said that the words of the Crown Prince, as a matter of fact, go far further than those of Von Kuehlmann. Von Kuehlmann did not expect peace by a purely military decision, but in the expectations of the Crown Prince a military decision does not enter at all."

Being referred to Von Kuehlmann's June statement that "our position, our huge reserves of military strength and our determination at home, permit us to count thus," Vorwaerts says as follows: "That was on June 24, when the Germans were on the Marne and ten kilometers from Amiens. Von Kuehlmann had the right to insist that the time was the best time to talk of a peace by understanding, but unhappily there are people in Germany who cannot understand that a declaration of readiness for peace has its best effect at the height of military success. They raged when with the taking of Buebarre a German peace offer was made. They raged when after the victorious offensive, Von Kuehlmann said he expected peace by other than purely military means. Perhaps those same Pan-Germans who overthrew Von Kuehlmann have now nothing to say against his words, but today such words are infinitely less effective."

Royal Views Change... "We would have rejoiced in June if we had heard words from the Crown Prince which gave moral support to the Foreign Minister. We did hear Hohenzollern words in those days, but they sounded otherwise."

On June 16 the German Kaiser made his speech about the struggle between the two conceptions of right, freedom, honor and morality, and the Kaiser's speech was the best speech of the war. It was a speech of peace, and it was a speech of peace by understanding, but unhappily there are people in Germany who cannot understand that a declaration of readiness for peace has its best effect at the height of military success. They raged when with the taking of Buebarre a German peace offer was made. They raged when after the victorious offensive, Von Kuehlmann said he expected peace by other than purely military means. Perhaps those same Pan-Germans who overthrew Von Kuehlmann have now nothing to say against his words, but today such words are infinitely less effective."

The article concludes by a pointed condemnation of the language of the official communiqué. It says: "When, for example, the town of X is evacuated, let it not be said that the town of X now lies before our lines as if the lines had not been where they were, and the town had moved. Let it be said that the town of X was evacuated."

Vorwaerts would rouse the people to a real recognition of the seriousness of the situation, and it would continue that good work by calling the Hetches together and letting the voice of the people's representatives be heard.

The German people were told little or nothing of the German defeat on Sedan Day. According to the official communiqué, it was a "quiet day," and the war correspondents celebrated the occasion by turning their attention to the work of denying the accuracy of the Entente communiqué. As the German lines "captured" by British forces on the anniversary of Sedan had been evacuated days before, the German people were told, no prisoners could therefore have been taken by the enemy.

Admit Withdrawal of Lines... The German lines were withdrawn a little, it was admitted, but everywhere in the British and far to the south, the French, failed to achieve any success. All this was due to what a semiofficial communiqué terms "the extreme brilliant" generalship of Hindenburg and Ludendorff.

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Will Punish Berliners for Speaking the Truth

By the Associated Press... Amsterdam, Sept. 6.—Berlin and the province of Brandenburg have been placed under "the law relating to a state of siege, which provides for a fine or imprisonment for persons inventing or circulating untrue rumors calculated to disquiet the populace," according to the Cologne Volkszeitung.

A notice accompanying the decree calls attention to the circulation of frivolous and sometimes malevolent and traitorous gossip, exaggerating the transitory successes of the enemy and casting doubt upon the wonderful achievements of the German troops.

member that the Germans took 200,000 prisoners in their offensive of four months, and assures them that the German commanders "have the situation in hand," as usual. Unfortunately, hard on the heels of that statement follows another which will inform the German people, if they can read the very small type in which it is printed, that the Allies took nearly 130,000 prisoners in one month, and a glance at the accompanying map shows that the Germans lost in about six weeks much more than half the territory they had gained in four months.

The military situation, indeed, is such that German critics and correspondents can indulge in dull, confused and absurd echoes of semiofficial misstatements.

Meanwhile popular opinion is extremely depressed in Germany. The Berlin Bourgeois is practically stagnant. Here in Amsterdam, German and Austrian exchange dropped heavily yesterday, the former to half its peace-time rate and the latter to the lowest point since the war began, namely, almost exactly one-third of the normal figure. The fall is continuing today, while English and French exchange is mounting rapidly.

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MACHINE GUN NOW HOPE OF KAISER

Day of Infantryman Is Gone in German Army Practice... LIGHT MAXIM FAVORITE... America's New Browning Has Great Destiny to Fulfill in Defeating Foe

By EDWIN L. JAMES... Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger... Copyright, 1918, by New York Times Co.

Infantrymen as such have ceased to exist in the German army. This statement is taken from an official Allied report. It means that the fighting unit in the German army is no longer the rifle, but the machine gun. All the German forces are being organized, not on the old basis of the number of rifles to a force, but on the basis of the number of machine guns. Rifles, instead of being the primary weapon, have been relegated to inferior importance.

The term German machine gun thus used means a light gun which can be carried by one man and which is operated by two men. The type is the Maxim. The Germans retain heavy machine guns in small units, as we do, but the new development is to turn the whole infantry force into a force of machine gunners. Not that every two men have a Maxim, but every six men have a Maxim, and six are equipped with rifles, but for purposes similar to those for which the artilleryman carries a revolver.

The primary purpose of a group of eight is to work a machine gun with a rifleman to protect the gunners and take their places if wounded or killed. The German command has decided to fight the war with the machine gun instead of the rifle.

I gave these facts to lend weight to the opinion that the field of usefulness on the western front for the American light Browning gun now being made in America has nearly grown.

Not only is the Maxim a more efficient weapon, but every one knows that the Germans are using many more light Maxims than we are using automatic rifles. One thousand German infantrymen would have under the present German plan about 125 light Maxims. One thousand American infantrymen have far less than that number of automatic rifles in operation in the front line. The Maxim shoots more bullets than our automatic rifle. The record made in tests of the Browning light gun indicates that it will give us a weapon equal to the German light Maxim.

Well-filled graves scattered about the tops of hills between the Marne and the Vesle tell the story of how well the Germans used their machine-gun warfare against the Americans. Eight out of every ten of our men killed in that sector were victims of machine guns which the Germans planted along the route out of which they made shooting galleries.

It is quite possible that this winter she may offer to return Alsace-Lorraine to France and restore Belgium if she be left free to exploit Russia. This would mean that the Central European block would in time become

As powerful as ever, and that Prussian culture and Prussian militarism would again flourish.

In Flanders, the shortest line when the enemy can hold runs from his present front east of Ypres along Wytschaete and Messines ridge, across Hill 62, west of Armentieres, to Neuve Chapelle and La Bassée. He is very nearly on this line now, and it seems probable he will try to hold it, though he may prefer to come out of the low ground of the Lys Valley and take his stand a little further east on the Aubers Ridge. This would mean the abandonment of 75 per cent of the ground which he won in his April offensive; but it would shorten his front by some thirteen miles.

South of La Bassée it seems likely he may try to run his line through Menin and Listard to the east of Lens, and thence to the Senese Canal at the northern section of the Canal du Nord, behind which he is trying to rally his forces defeated in the battle for the Droocourt switch. The switch, which is called the line of the Canal du Nord, takes him down to Moeuvres, near which place it joins the old Hindenburg line. This runs from just east of Moeuvres east of St. Quentin to La Fere, and thence to southwest of Laon, whence it can be made to connect with the Chemin-des-Dames, and south toward Rheims.

By breaking through the Droocourt switch, he would inflict a severe defeat on the enemy and caused him very heavy losses which he can ill spare; but we have not yet turned the main north and south section of the Hindenburg line, which begins east of Moeuvres, and shall not have done this effectively until we have got across the Senese Canal and taken Douai, and gotten back to the Hindenburg lines in front of Cambrai and St. Quentin, and further south to the Chemin-des-Dames.

Whether he will succeed in carrying his plans through, remains to be seen, but Poch has kept the initiative ever since July 18, when he launched his counter-attack. We may be certain it will not be his fault if he does not keep it. If the enemy shortens his front, we also shorten ours; and that our men are still several Allied armies which have not yet had their say. We may therefore reasonably expect more, and leave it to Poch to settle what more there is to be.

Seeing that less than three months ago there seemed to be prospects of our passing the winter with the enemy guns within range of Paris and our army cooped up against the coast, we may be well satisfied with the situation as it is, even if it does not get better, as it almost certainly will.

Marks Tumble as Allies Gain... Copenhagen, Sept. 6.—The present situation on the western front has caused a fall in the price of about 17 per cent, while the pound sterling has risen to \$5.04.

By the United Press... Washington, Sept. 6.—Berlin has definitely abandoned its plan for a peace offensive at the present time as an utterly hopeless proposition, advises to Entente diplomats here today announced. The proposed campaign was called off, it was stated, following a conference between Count Burian and German Secretary of State von Hintze.

It has become known in diplomatic circles that Germany had carefully worked out detailed arrangements for the peace moves several months ago, and that the plans were held up by the turning of the Ludendorff advance at the Marne.

U-BOAT SINKS U. S. SHIP... Five of Civilian Crew of Lake Owens Die by Shellfire... Washington, Sept. 6.—Sinking of the American steamship Lake Owens, with loss of five of the civilian crew, was reported to the Navy Department today. Submarine shellfire was understood to be responsible.

The steamship, an army cargo carrier, of 2308 tons, was sent down by gunfire in foreign waters September 3. All members of the naval guard were saved, and only one of the crew was seriously injured. The rest of the crew were seriously and six slightly wounded.

DUTCH PROTEST SHIP SINKINGS... Minister to Berlin Objects to U-Boat Outrages... The Hague, Sept. 6.—The Dutch Minister to Berlin has been instructed to protest against the destruction by German submarines of vessels within what is designated as the barred zone, and against the sinking of seven Dutch fishing vessels on August 24.

The minister also has instructions to protest against the fact that the skippers of the fishing vessels were forced to sign a declaration, the contents of which were unknown to them.

The minister also will make a request for the goods taken from the fishing vessels.

Water and Light Services Attacked... complaint that the Hinesburg-District Water Company, supplying a section of Philadelphia, does not furnish adequate service and that fire protection is not what it should be, was filed with the Public Service Commission today by John B. Mather, of Tacony. Complaint against the service of the East Pennsylvania Gas and Electric Company at Bristol was filed by Dr. Howard Purcell.

Allies Can Smash Foe Defense, Says Maurice

Recent Victories Prove Germany's Firmest Barriers Will Crumble—Enemy Clinging Now to Hope of Holding Shortened Line

By MAJOR GENERAL SIR FREDERICK B. MAURICE... Former Director of Operations of the British Army.

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FOE'S LOSS SINCE SPRING 1,200,000

Killed, Permanently Disabled and Prisoners Account for 500,000... MAN-POWER NEED ACUTE... Fourth Anniversary of Battle of Marne Finds Allies in Better Situation

By G. H. PERRIS... Cable to Evening Public Ledger... Copyright, 1918, by New York Times Co.

With the French Armies, Sept. 6. Yesterday was the fourth anniversary of the battle of the Marne and of Joffre's memorable summons: "At the moment when the battle is on a line on which depends the salvation of the country, everybody must be reminded that the time has gone for looking backward. Troops who can no longer advance must at any cost hold the ground won and be sobering rather than give way. In the present circumstances no failure can be tolerated."

The recollection of this famous victory at the moment when the Allies are again driving back the same enemy suggests thoughts, some of an encouraging and some of sobering kind. The Central Powers, long prepared and greatly profiting by the Bolshevik pestilence, have been worn down, while the grand alliance is far from reaching its full strength. But the end is not yet.

Germany is still strong despite her defeats. Of her total of 245 divisions she has about 200 in the west. They are all much weakened. The reserve has fallen some fifty divisions since the beginning of the March offensive.

The enemy retreat in the last seven weeks has been for the most part compelled, but there has been in it also an element of choice. It procured a material shortening of the front on which it holds off the Allies. As long as the Allies can maintain unrelenting pressure they can keep the initiative, but if they let go Ludendorff will have a chance.

The Americans are now sending reinforcements every month equal to half a year's German recruits. These are grounds of confidence, provided that the Allied effort is sustained to the end. They provide no excuse for the view that the war is won or will run itself to a victorious conclusion. The German divisions still in reserve with the 1918 class in the field depots constitute a force not to be despised. The German staff has no longer advanced must at any cost hold the ground won and be sobering rather than give way. In the present circumstances no failure can be tolerated."

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Germany is still strong despite her defeats. Of her total of 245 divisions she has about 200 in the west. They are all much weakened. The reserve has fallen some fifty divisions since the beginning of the March offensive.

The enemy retreat in the last seven weeks has been for the most part compelled, but there has been in it also an element of choice. It procured a material shortening of the front on which it holds off the Allies. As long as the Allies can maintain unrelenting pressure they can keep the initiative, but if they let go Ludendorff will have a chance.

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